



# Witnesses to the Savior: Anna

Luke 2:21-35



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# Christmas Day

Worship with Your Family  
10:30 AM

## where in the **WORLD?**



**JANUARY 8**

## Doctrines of the Faith



Beginning January 8 • Sundays at 5pm  
[broadviewchurch.com/doctrines](http://broadviewchurch.com/doctrines)

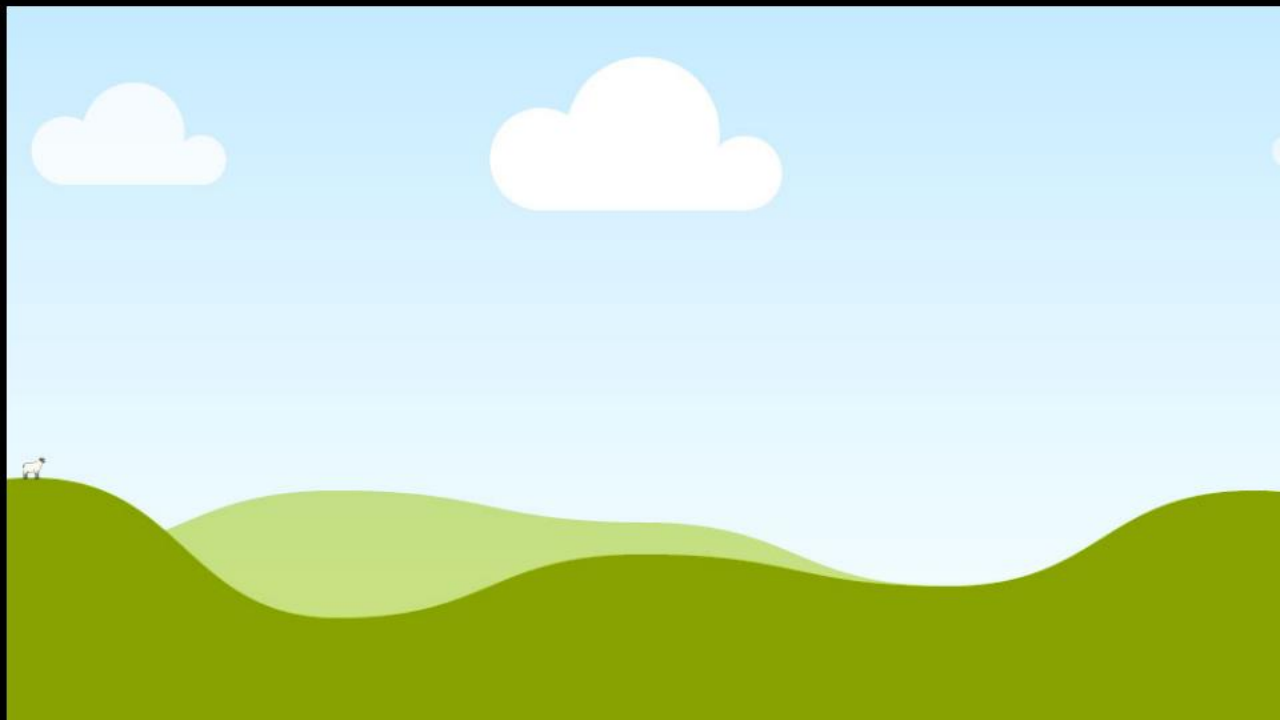
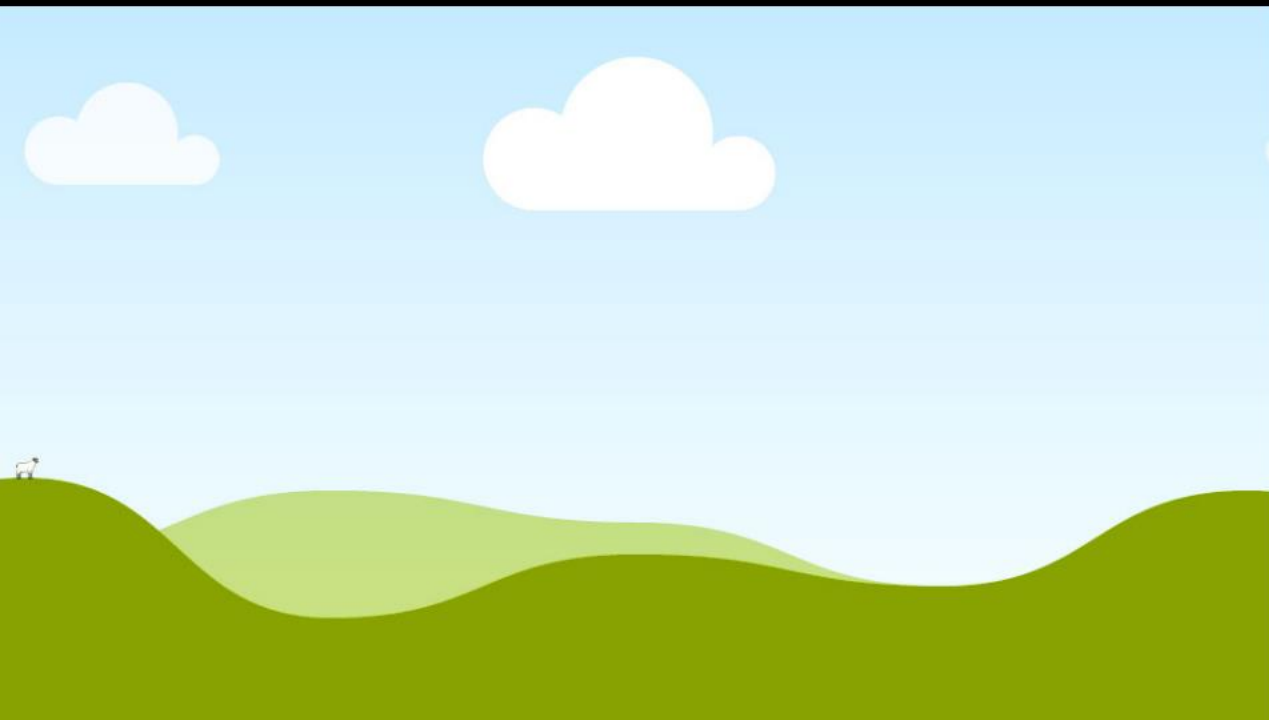
After the sermon:

1. Pastor David will provide some very important biblical instruction about the Lord's Supper.
2. We will have a song of response and an opportunity to prepare our hearts for the Lord's Supper.
3. Our Deacons will serve a Communion Cup to those who indicate they need one by raising their hand.

# AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP



We invite you to get a Communion Cup  
from one of our Lord's Supper tables.



# Pastoral Prayer

**Ps. 62**





# Witnesses to the Savior: Anna

Luke 2:21-35



Written by Mark Lowry

"Mary, Did You Know?"

It's a fair question:  
Did Mary know  
who her son was?

Answer: No

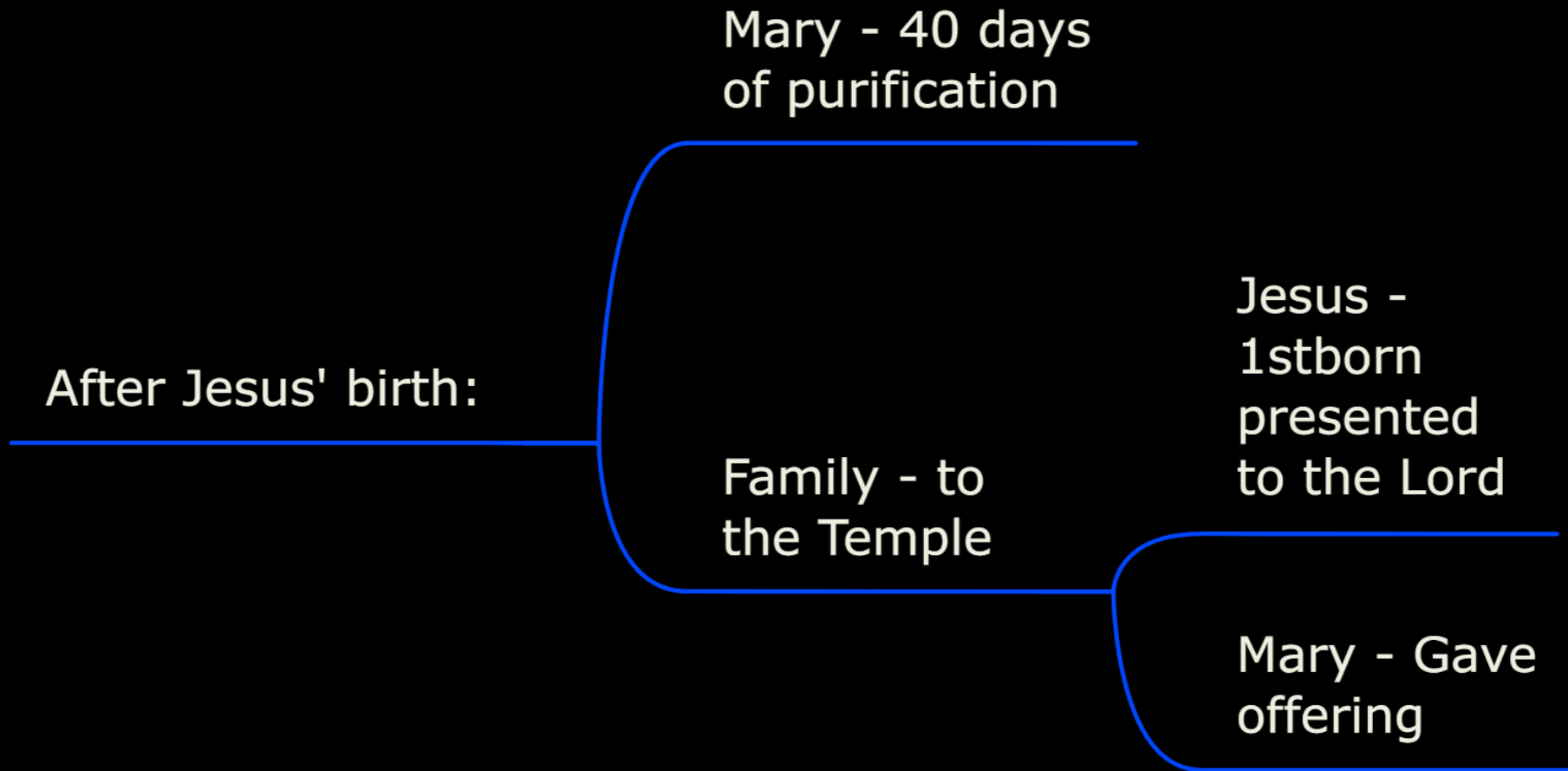
Being 1st to hear ≠  
1st to understand

Luke 1:29 - She was  
deeply troubled by this  
statement, wondering  
what kind of greeting  
this could be.

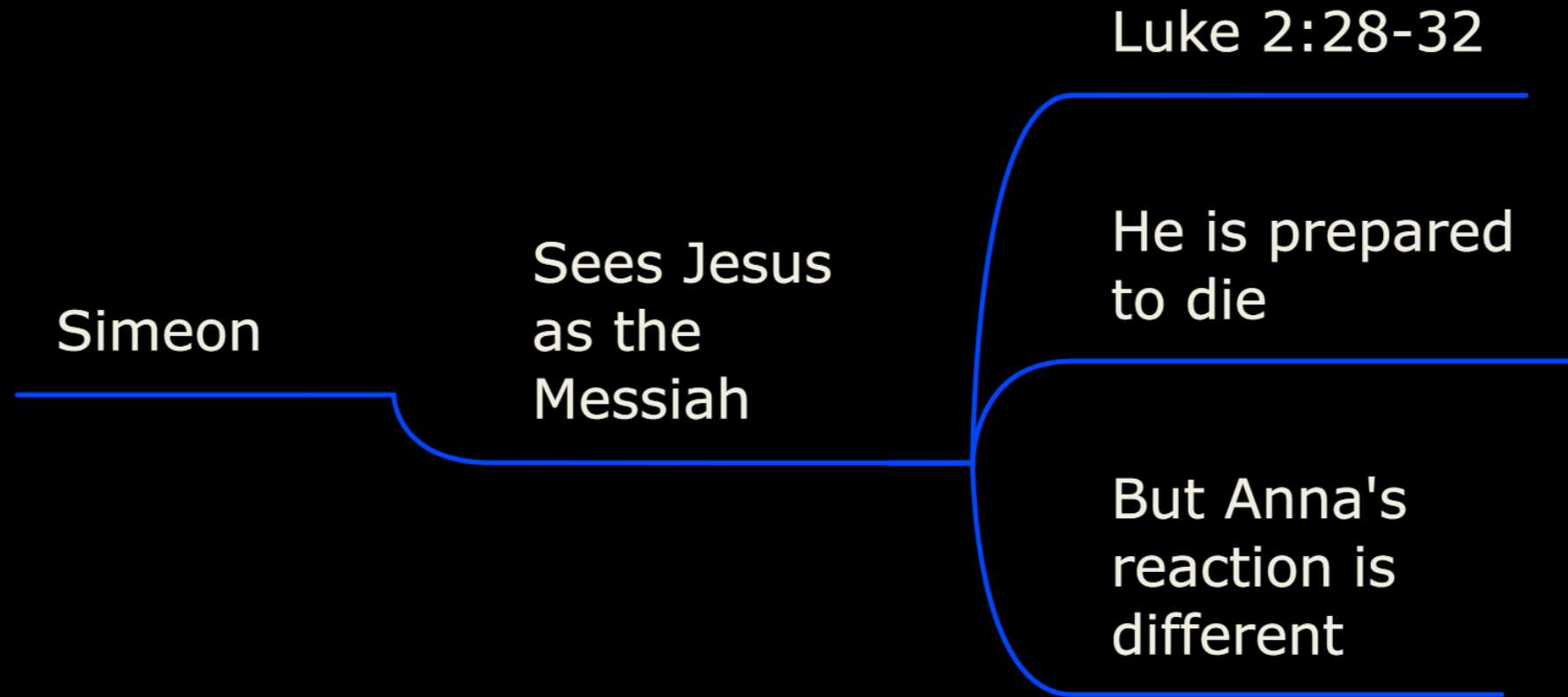
12 yrs. later, at the  
Temple (cf. Luke  
2:28-50).

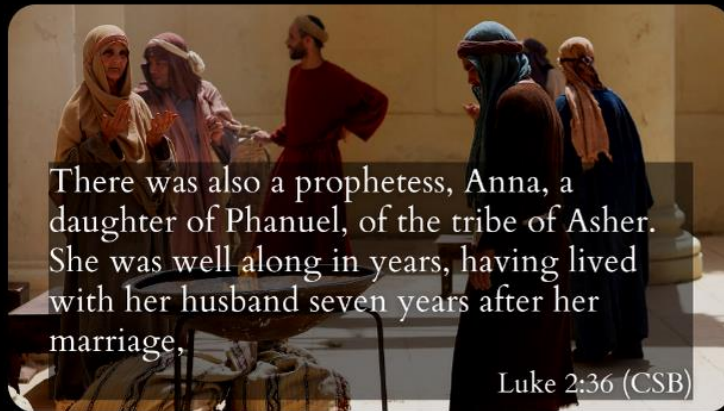


One person  
who DID  
understand  
was Anna



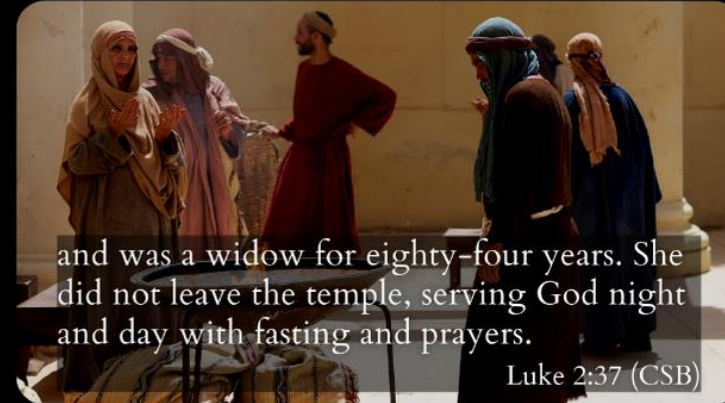






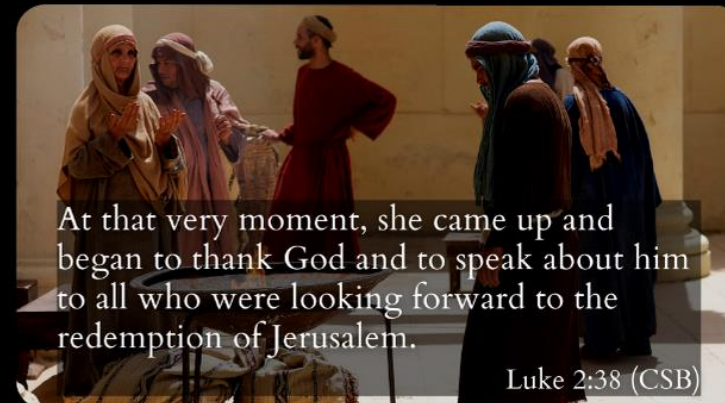
There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

Luke 2:36 (CSB)



and was a widow for eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers.

Luke 2:37 (CSB)



At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38 (CSB)



## Namesake - "Hannah"

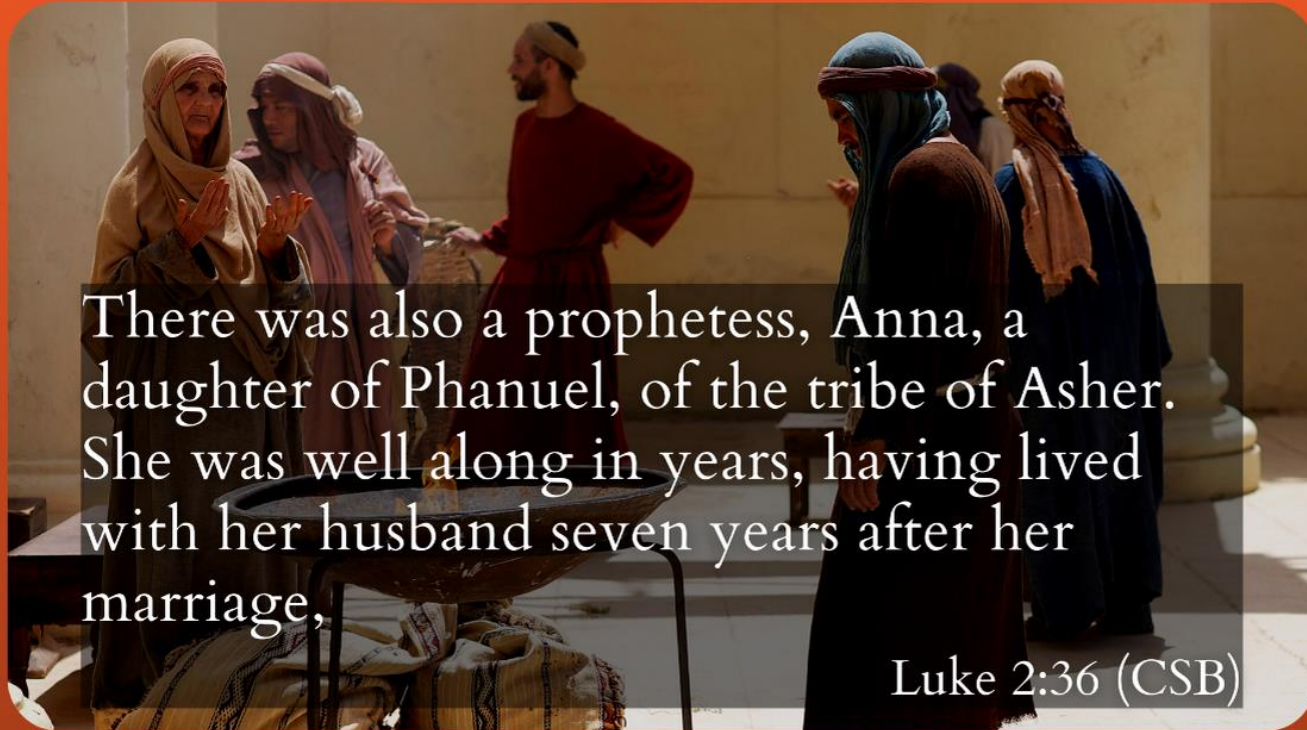
Samuel's mother in the OT

Prayed one of the greatest prayers in all Scripture (Samuel 2)

One of the earliest Hebrew poems in existence

A model of persistence in prayer and surrender to God's will

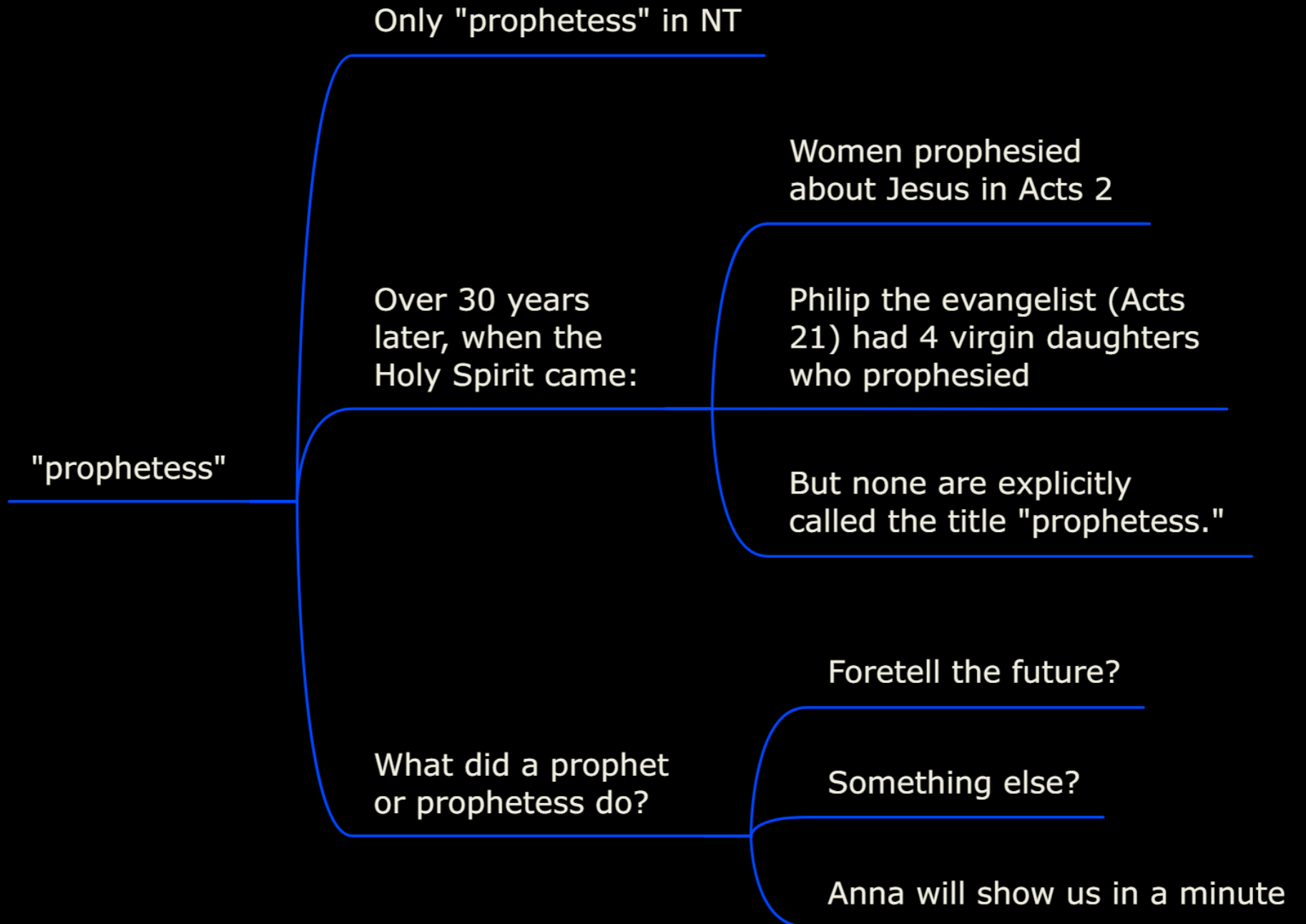
Anna in Luke 2 models this, too

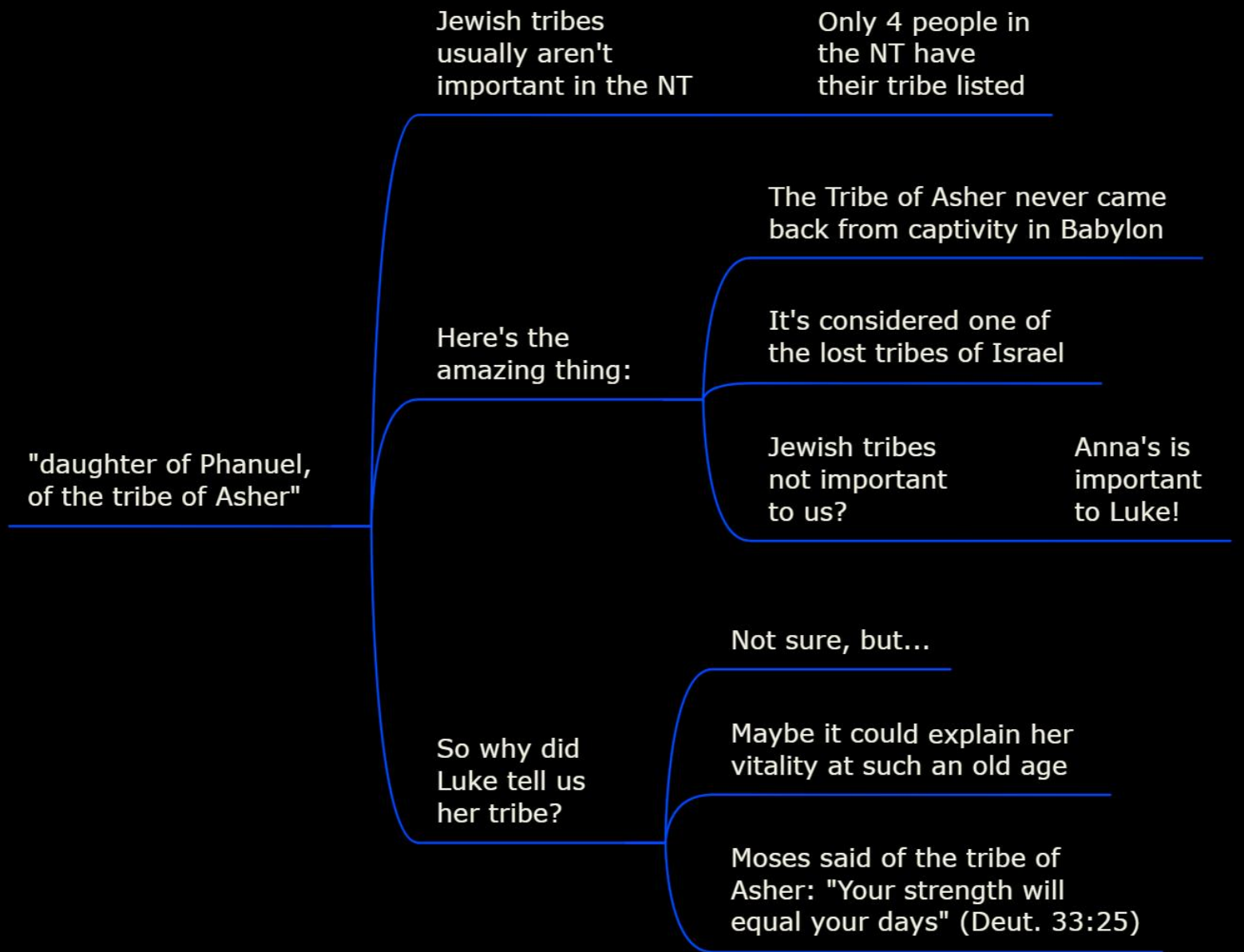


There was also a prophetess, Anna, a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

Luke 2:36 (CSB)







"She was well along in years, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,"

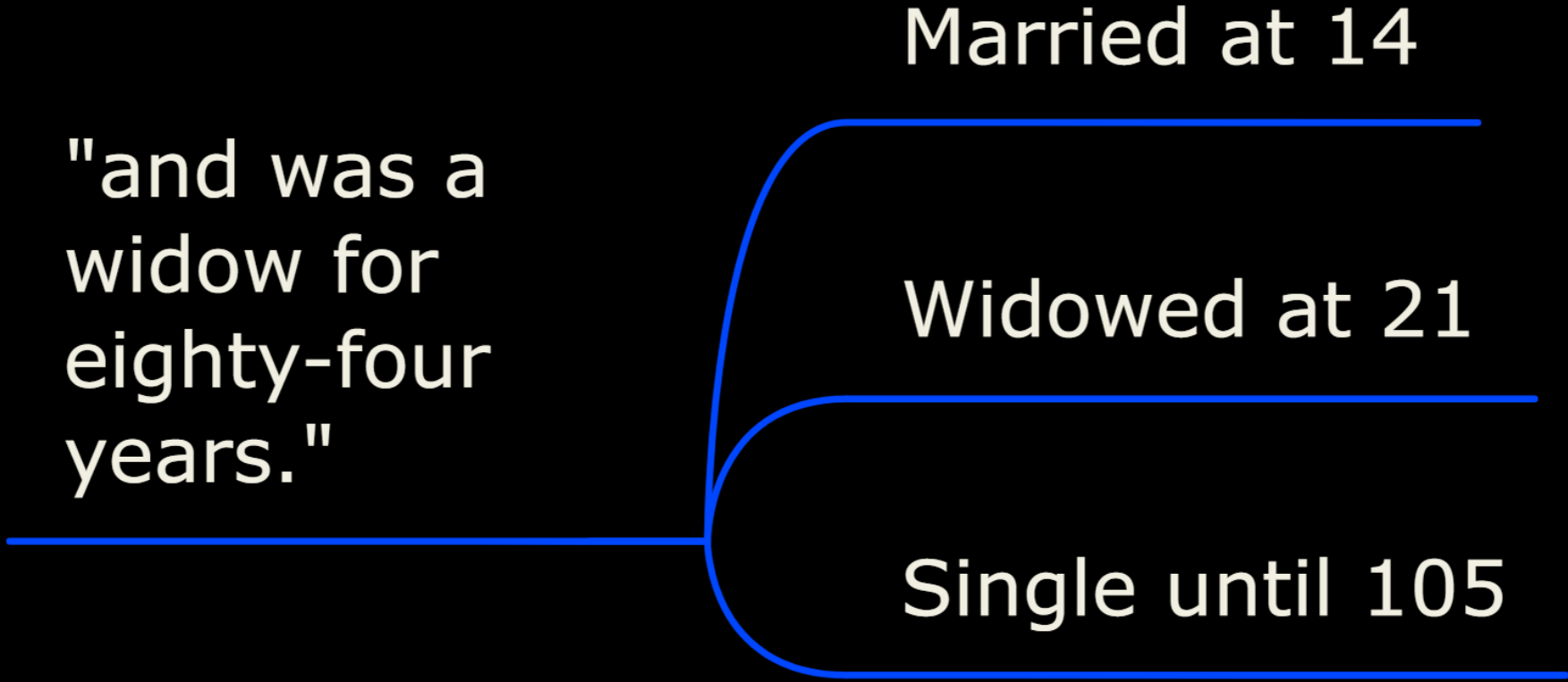




and was a widow for eighty-four years. She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers.

Luke 2:37 (CSB)

"and was a  
widow for  
eighty-four  
years."



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graph LR; A["and was a widow for eighty-four years."] --- B["Married at 14"]; A --- C["Widowed at 21"]; A --- D["Single until 105"];
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Married at 14

Widowed at 21

Single until 105

"She did not leave the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayers"

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Celibacy is a spiritual  
gift that God gives  
some Christians

The ideal  
example of a  
celibate  
Christian

When you are single,  
you can devote yourself  
to God:

I wish that all people were as I am. But each has his own gift from God, one person has this gift, another has that. I say to the unmarried and to widows: It is good for them if they remain as I am.

1 Corinthians 7:7-8 (CSB)

Because of the present distress, I think that it is good for a man to remain as he is.... Are you released from a wife? Do not seek a wife. However, if you do get married, you have not sinned, and if a virgin marries, she has not sinned. But such people will have trouble in this life, and I am trying to spare you.

1 Corinthians 7:26-28 (CSB)

I want you to be without concerns. The unmarried man is concerned about the things of the Lord—how he may please the Lord. But the married man is concerned about the things of the world—how he may please his wife—and his interests are divided.

1 Corinthians 7:32-34a (CSB)

The unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy both in body and in spirit. But the married woman is concerned about the things of the world—how she may please her husband.

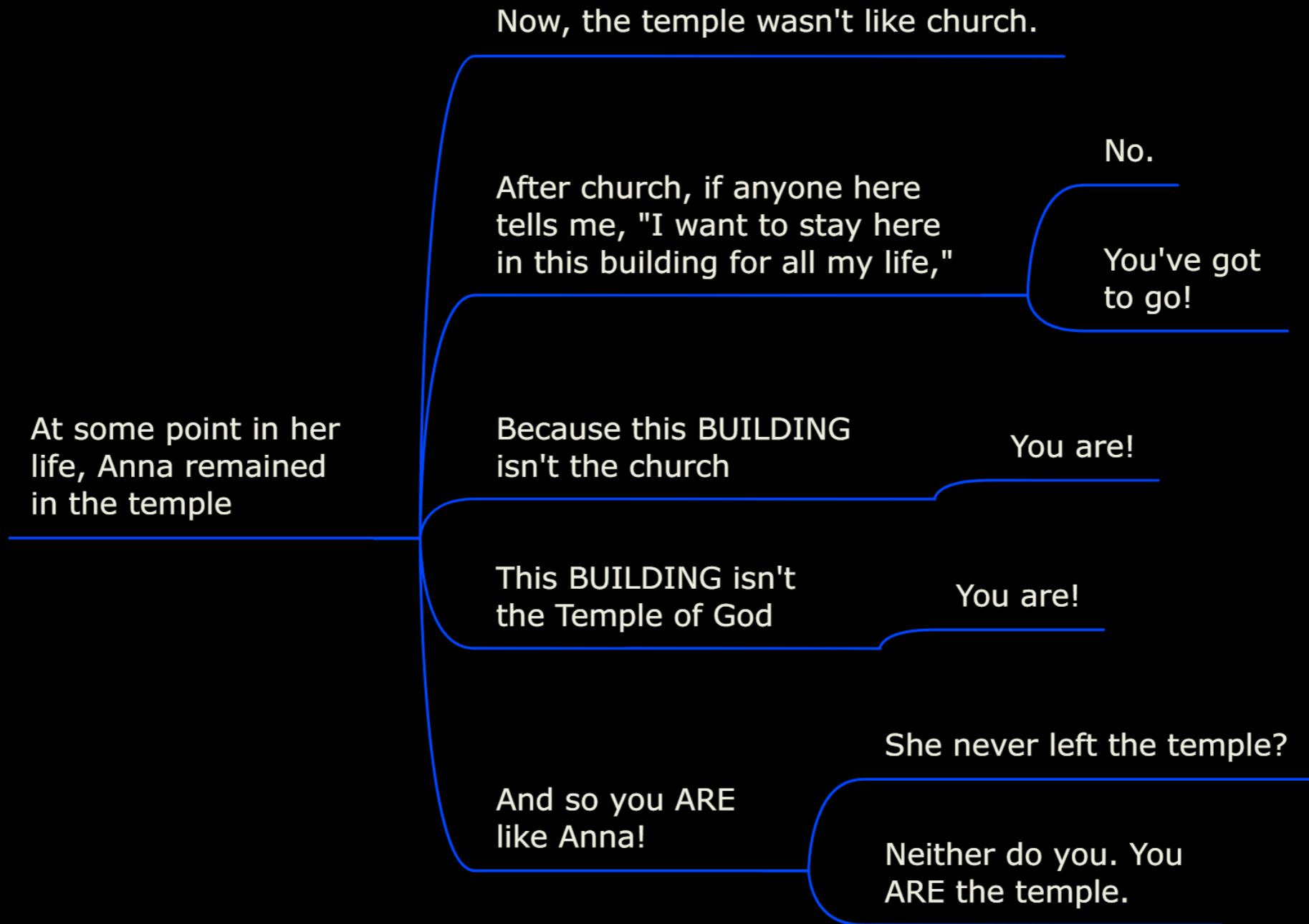
1 Corinthians 7:34b (CSB)

I am saying this for your own benefit, not to put a restraint on you, but to promote what is proper and so that you may be devoted to the Lord without distraction.

1 Corinthians 7:35 (CSB)

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The never leaving the temple isn't the part of Anna that we need to get better at.

It's the fasting and prayers.

THAT'S where the power and movement of God is.

If you've gotten away from praying, here's the solution:

Get back at it.

It's not difficult.

It's just a matter of doing.



At that very moment, she came up and began to thank God and to speak about him to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38 (CSB)



Simeon and Anna  
make an interesting  
story in Luke 2.

Simeon came up to  
the temple that day,  
but Anna LIVED there

Simeon wasn't called  
a prophet, but he  
prophesied about  
Jesus.

Anna was called a  
prophetess, but she  
gave thanks about  
Jesus.

But here's the  
biggest difference  
between Simeon  
and Anna:

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When Simeon saw Jesus,  
he said, "I can die now."

But when 105-year-old  
Anna saw Jesus, she said,  
"I've got to tell somebody."

This is what a prophet or prophetess does:

Reveal truths usually hidden

Anna recognizes who this Child is.

She tells the people of Jerusalem about His significance.

Amos 3:7 - "Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plans to his servants the prophets."

In Acts 2, the people there didn't understand what was happening.

The men and women who prophesied told the crowd about Jesus,

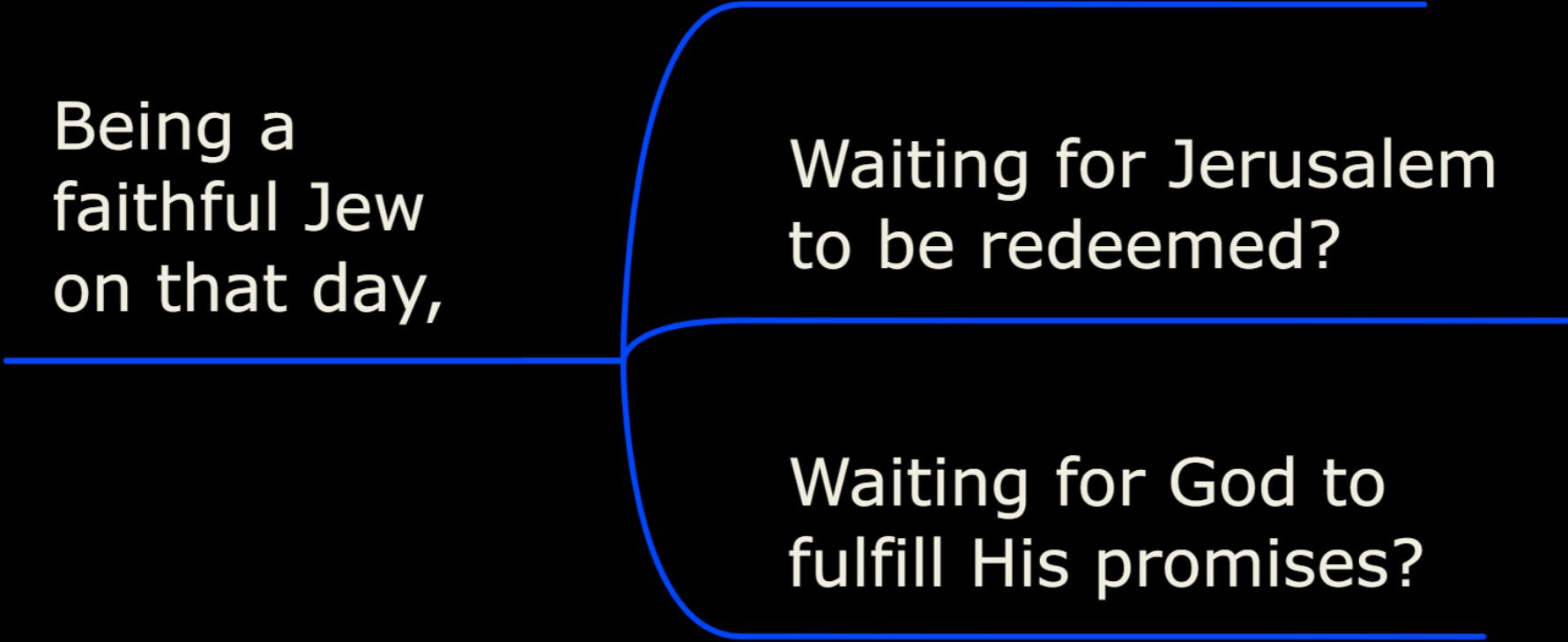
and how God's Spirit had come upon them that day.



Can you imagine?

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Being a  
faithful Jew  
on that day,



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graph LR; A[Being a faithful Jew on that day] --- B[Waiting for the Messiah to come?]; A --- C[Waiting for Jerusalem to be redeemed?]; A --- D[Waiting for God to fulfill His promises?];
```

Waiting for the  
Messiah to come?

Waiting for Jerusalem  
to be redeemed?

Waiting for God to  
fulfill His promises?

You go into the temple,

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to worship God  
as you have done  
countless times  
before.

You are praying  
that God might  
bring His salvation.

And there's Anna:

You've seen her many times before.

It seems like she's always at the temple.

But this time, something's different.

Anna tells you that God's salvation has come!

As you look around to see, she says, "Right HERE!"

"THIS baby will bring God's salvation to us!"

"This baby is Yahweh is salvation!"



So, what do you do?

Do you believe the word  
of this old woman?

A woman so dedicated to  
God that she remained  
single for over 8 decades?

Or do you think, "Oh, she's  
probably just senile," and go about  
your worship of God at the temple?

You and I today face  
the same issue:

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Do we dismiss these words  
as the foolish ramblings of  
ancient superstitious people?

Or will you say, "I believe"?

Prayer of faith

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Brief reflections on 1 Cor. 11

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Before we partake of the Lord's Supper,  
we will now have a time of response to God.

The altar is open for prayer.

If you have a spiritual decision to make or  
need prayer, you may come speak with  
Pastor David now or after the service.

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# Invitation

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As we prepare to take the Lord's Supper,  
please be seated.

If you need a Communion Cup, please raise  
your hand and a Deacon will serve you.

For I received from the Lord what I also  
passed on to you: On the night when he was  
betrayed, the Lord Jesus took bread, and  
when he had given thanks, broke it, and  
said, "This is my body, which is for you. Do  
this in remembrance of me."

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 (CSB)

In the same way also he took the cup, after  
supper, and said, "This cup is the new  
covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as  
you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink  
the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until  
he comes.

1 Corinthians 11:25-26 (CSB)



Don't neglect to do what is good and to  
share, for God is pleased with such sacrifices.

Hebrews 13:16 (CSB)

Generosity Scripture / Closing